

Town Administrator's Report

September 25, 2012

Areas of Involvement

- Big Bay Town Park Improvement Project
- Harbor and Shoreline Improvement Project
- Griggs Approach 'Earmark' Reassignment Project
- Army Corps (Section 106) and WI DNR Permitting – BBTP/Harbor/Griggs
- White Pine Road Absorption and Improvement Petition
- Brummer/MISA
- Firefighter/EMT compensation methodology
- Resurrection of CAPP Committee

Big Bay Town Park Improvement Project: BBTP has represented a continuing effort to ensure appropriate designs – sign-offs – permits – and building progress. Working closely with the Town Foreman, the design modifications and permitting process has advanced – most recently during a conference call with Building Inspector Jim Price wherein he was instructed to coordinate between CBE and Arne Mackey regarding completion of contracted designs and state sign-offs (CBE) and necessary building permits and inspections (Mackey). TA, in conjunction with the Town Foreman, ensure that professional services are performed and completed expeditiously.

Harbor and Shoreline Improvement Project: Jason Stangland and Bill Brose (SmithGroupJJR) and Bill Slaminski (DNR) met with TA to discuss progress on funding/grant matrix – TA requested that Harbor Committee convene to receive a report from Stangland and Brose on the project and progress – meeting was positive and productive and signaled the reinvigoration of the Committee – discussion was vigorous and effective.

Griggs Approach 'Earmark' Reassignment Project – TA has been in continually contact with Paul Conlin – WI DOT – regarding 'earmark' reassignment from Rice Street Extension to Griggs. From preliminary skepticism and doubt, Conlin advised TA that if a plan and timeline could be developed to demonstrate that the town could meet the requirements of plans, permits, and section 106, *prior to November 1*, that the DOT would look favorably on reassigning the resources. TA promised the plan and discussion would be on Conlin desk before the close of business Monday (9-24) – plan was on Conlin desk at 3:00 (9-24) – met with very positive reviews from DOT – TA provided follow-up copies of permits and previous archeological studies requested by DOT – still in the running as of this writing.

Army Corps (Section 106) and WI DNR Permitting and Planning (BBTP/Harbor/Griggs): Bill Sande (Corps), Alyssa Core and Steve LaValley (DNR) will be meeting with TA on October 11 to discuss Harbor and Griggs permits and Section 106 issues and procedures. The meeting will establish the roster of permits necessary for the Harbor Improvement Project, as well as any Section 106 issues and advisories – and – discuss, plan and institute whatever Section 106 advisories and/or archeological assessments may be necessary for the Griggs Project.

White Pine Road Absorption and Improvement Petition: Based on discussions with Petitioner and several property owners, TA recommended that Petition be withdrawn – with leave to refile at a later date – to allow outreach and communication/discussion with property owners. TA suggested that a series of conversations/discussions among property owners without the specter of a public hearing may produce greater interaction and idea exchange among the effected parties. TA introduced the idea of a ‘bottom-up’ project development rather than pursuing a process that was destined to produce conflict and contention. All parties, both pro and con, were enthused and positive about the suggested process. Petitioner withdrew Petition.

Brummer/MISA: The TPC arrived at their recommendation on Sept 20 – it will be transmitted to the Board within the required 5 days (Wednesday or Thursday) – Town Board will hear and consider the recommendation at an October RTBM (either 2 or 16).

Firefighter/EMT Compensation Methodology: TA communicated with the EMS Directors of both Ashland and Bayfield Counties who agreed to forward a request by TA to all towns’ volunteer fire depts and EMT squads for their methods of compensating the volunteer fire fighters and EMTs. TA has received 3 responses and anticipates several more before October’s Island Fire and EMT meetings – TA is on the agendas of both to 1) Introduce himself and 2) begin discussing possible alternatives to current savings bond method of compensation.